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In re Thieblin
Att. Docket: P-5701
Ser. No.: 9485026

Date: August 31, 2000

Dear Attorney Kenaga

Thank you for filing the subject patent application in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

This application has been assigned to me for substantive examination. Applications are ordinarily examined in turn based on U.S. effective filing date. Please see MPEP §708. While I cannot predict when first action on the merits will begin, please note that I am now examining new cases having U.S. effective filing dates in the month of July-96 (or earlier).

If a response to an action has already been filed, I will reconsider the application in due course. I am now reconsidering amended applications having an effective US filing date of Apr-93

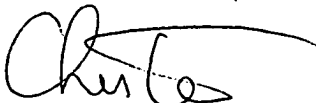
If earlier action on the merits is desired, please consider filing a petition to make this case "special" in accordance with 37 CFR §1.102 and MPEP §708.02. In particular, please see 37 CFR §1.102(c).

For your future reference, please note the fax numbers for filing papers with me:

FAX -> 703-872-9077 (whether Official or Unofficial) (printed at my desktop printer)

If assistance in connection with this application is desired prior to first action on the merits, please do not hesitate to call me directly.

Thank you. I look forward to examining this application in due course. If other business brings you to the Patent Office, do not hesitate to stop by and say hello if you wish.



Chester T. Barry